

OSCILLATOR

Volume 23 Number 1

FCC ACTS ON RESTRUCTURING...see Story on Page 10

J. D. Fort, K7JDF, Elected President

January 2000

J. D. Fort, K7JDF, has been elected to serve as the first president of Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club in the new millennium, and in the 23rd year of the club's existence. "JD" has previously served the club in other offices, most recently as Vice President in 1999.

JD is interested in providing variety in programming and in promoting the community

service work of OTVARC. He is an ardent supporter of the annual SEAPAC event.

Serving with JD will be new officers, Janet Bell, WB7FJC as Vice President and Linda Sutton, KC7YTD as Treasurer. Mike McDonald, KC7YSW continues as Secretary. New Trustees are: Jim Blanchard, W7HOW; Alvin Carlson, KB7VHI; and Julia Landers, KD7GQW.

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Special points of interest:

- "The lights are still on" says new president, JD Fort
- HDTV featured in January program
- Second LF beacon on the air
- Young people still interested in becoming amateur radio operators says survey of teachers.

Next Meeting — Wednesday, January 12th

We'll take a look at High Definition Digital Television. JD Fort will take us on a tour of the activities on Sylvan Hill and Healy Heights via the KOPB/KGW, and KOIN web sites.

Its possible that Everett Helm (W7EEH) with the KOPB/KGW HDTV project and club member Eric Margeson (KA6OSF) who oversaw installation of the KOIN digital transmitter will be

with us in person.

What does this new technology hold for us as television consumers? Are there learnings that apply to our amateur radio hobby?

Join us on January 12th at 7:00 pm. Come at 6:00 pm and enjoy a meal from the Elks Club buffet line.

Prexy's Prose — J.D. Fort

"...the lights are still on..."

Did we make it? Let me see, the lights are still on and most of us have enough batteries, solar cells and generators to power biosphere three into the better part of the new millennium. I know, I know there is that lingering argument that is making great Friday talk radio topic fodder regarding when the millennium actually starts. (See Prexy, p. 4)

Northwestern Director — Greg Milnes, W7OZ

For those of you who don't know, the American Radio Relay League, operates through a Board of Directors. The only voting members are the Directors elected in 15 regions of the country. The Northwestern Division consists of the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. Each of those states has a Section Manager (except Washington which has two...Eastern and Western). Please get any ARRL concerns to me at w7oz@arrl.org.

By the time you read this, we'll all have survived Y2K. There was an excellent article in the Oregonian for December 8 (Metro Close-Up p. D-4). It is available on the web at <http://www.oregonlive.com/news/99/12/st120811.html>. On the subject of the web, check out the ARRL Northwestern Division page at www.hfradio.org/nwarrrl/index.html. We have recently changed webmasters and the page now resides with Tomas Hood, NW7US.

I am personally very pleased that we will have Chris Imlay, W3KD, for SEAPAC 2000. Chris is a friend and happens to be the legal counsel to the ARRL (among other clients). Not only does Chris analyze pending legal matters but he supplies background and position papers for many of our ARRL related matters. In addition he "roams the halls" of the FCC picking up information from various sources. He also is a vital participant in meetings with the FCC and relaying our concerns to them. Besides that he is an all round good guy!

As I am writing this (Dec.20) there is no word on the license restructuring matter. We have heard however that it is imminent and it could be out by New Year's. On the other hand we all know that "soon" is a four-letter word. More next month.

73 (and 88 where appropriate)

FAR OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

The nonprofit Foundation for Amateur Radio Inc., an ARRL-affiliated federation of more than 75 Amateur Radio clubs in the Washington DC area, plans to administer 73 scholarships for the 2000-2001 academic year to assist eligible radio amateurs with post-secondary education.

The Foundation fully funds ten of the scholarships with income from grants and from its annual hamfest. FAR administers the remaining sixty-three scholarships at no cost to the donors.

Amateur Radio licensees are eligible to compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of study beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted at an accredited university, college, or technical school.

Awards range from \$500 to \$2500. In some cases, preference goes to those pursuing certain courses of study or to residents of specific geographical areas. FAR encourages all clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin, to spread the word on the availability of these scholarships at meetings, in newsletters, during training classes, on their nets, and on their Web sites.

**FAR
Offers
73 scholarships
for the
2000 - 2001
academic
year**

Application forms and additional information are available by letter or QSL postmarked prior to April 30, 2000, from FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. Contributions to FAR are tax-deductible.

Tuality Hospital Base Station Project by David, KD7EFJ

The base station project for Tuality Hospital is moving along nicely. In addition to the TNC that Warren Beals, WA7KLY, has donated, Craig Brunson, N7TSZ, has generously donated four General Electric transceivers for the project, two for Hillsboro, and two for Forest Grove.

Cash donations of \$500.00 from the Tuality Hospital Foundation and a matching donation of \$500.00 from the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Committee have been received. Any other donations of cash or equipment would greatly be appreciated.

I am in the process of moving to San Diego

so Sharon Kennedy - KD7CWP will be taking over the project. Any questions or donations should be forwarded to her at 503-642-0370 during the business day.

The Tuality Hospital Project is just one of the many projects encouraged by the OTVARC membership. As a public service club, we are involved in improving our community's emergency preparedness.

Many thanks for all the help and support in getting this project closer to completion. Harline Dunkin, Safety Coord. for Tuality Hospital, sends her thanks for all the help as well.

Ham Radio University 2000

Clubs in ARRL's New York-Long Island Section have organized Ham Radio University 2000, an educational Amateur Radio event, January 23, 2000. Spearheading the event is Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club president Phil Lewis N2MUN.

Ham Radio University 2000 is not a hamfest or flea market but will focus on technical forums on all aspects of Amateur Radio and is solely for educational purposes. Forums will

include such topics as license restructuring, antennas, DXing, contesting and purchasing Amateur Radio equipment.

See <http://www.arrlHUDSON.org/nli/hru2000.htm> or contact Phil Lewis, N2MUN, lewisp@hazeltine.com.

**Focus
On
Technical
Forums**

High-speed Code Practice

Interested in increasing your skill at the key? Former ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, W1NJM, in Newington, Connecticut, regularly conducts high-speed code practice, sponsored by the Society of Wireless Pioneers, Thursdays at 0130 UTC (5:30 pm PST) on 3523 and/or 7023 kHz. Practice speeds are 20 to 65 WPM in various increments, decrements and sequences, as announced.

Raymond Evans, K7HLR, in Clearfield, Utah, conducts two CW practice schedules daily on

7056 kHz at 1400 UTC (6:00 am PST) and 0000 UTC (4:00 pm PST), November through March; 1300 UTC (6:00 am PDT) and 2300 UTC (4:00 pm PDT) April through November, with speeds from 5 to 40 WPM. Code speed is a function of practice. Long sessions are not necessary. Frequent sessions do work. Good luck!

**Interested in
Increasing
Your Code
Speed?**

Prexy, from cover

Some say we have made it through the millennium portal. Others argue it doesn't really start until then end of this year. (12:01am, December 31, 2001)

It seems most of the arguments stem from that pesky thing we call "zero". What is it? I was taught in school it is not defined as "nothing". You see it actually serves the function of holding a place. Yet it's value remains "undefined". Imagine how bad off we would be without it. Face it, a binary system, even this funny little number crunching box I'm pounding the keys on right now would be impossible without our friend "0".

My predecessor, N7REX, has

done a wonderful job over the past years in moving The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club in to a position to challenge the next century. I hope to function as more than just a "place older". Indeed it is my desire to work with all of the new club officers, trustees and members to address the challenges of the next year.

These challenges will include, but will not be limited to, the care, use and feeding of the W7OTV repeater, administration of SEAPAC, continued upgrading of the club remote trailer, and the planning and execution of programs and activities that let us have plenty of radio fun.

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions on what we can do to keep OTVARC one of Oregon's premier ham radio service clubs. I would encourage you to step up to the plate and get involved with your club by taking one of the many Special Interest Group positions that exist. You will find them listed in the back of this newsletter. If you are interested in any of these let your board know.

Here's looking forward to a great New Year, fellowship and fun times with what has to be the most fun hobby on the planet...amateur radio.

Year 2000 Salem Hamfair by Jim, W7HOW

The YEAR 2000 SALEM HAMFAIR sponsored by the Salem Repeater Association and Oregon Coast Emergency Repeater, Inc., is set for Saturday, February 19th. Doors open at 9:00 am at the Polk County Fairgrounds, near the junction of Oregon Highway 22 and US99 West in Rickreal.

There will be hourly drawings and a Grand Prize drawing at 3:00 pm. Registration in advance by February 4th will receive an extra door prize ticket. The Grand Prizes are an ICOM IC2800 Dual Band Mobile and

an ICOM W32A Dual Band Handheld.

The fee is \$6.00 in advance, \$7.00 the door. Age 12 and under come with an adult entry without charge.

Registrations should be sent to the Salem Repeater Association, PO Box 784, Salem OR 97308. Pre-registration questions can be referred to Evan, N7IFJ at 503-585-5924, or n7ifj@teleport.com. See members/xoom.com/kb7cw/sra/index.html.

The Country Store will be an opportunity to sell you gear, contact Mac, N7REO, at 503-

585-6307, or n7reo@arri.net for more information.

The swapmeet will include ICOM, Ham Radio Outlet, StarFire Tec, Capital Engraving, Radio Depot, and others. Meetings for ARRL, ARES/RACES and others will be announced throughout the day. No VE testing is planned.

The Polk County Fairgrounds is located at 520 South Pacific Highway West US99W. From I-5 South, take the Salem Parkway exit (260A) and follow the "Highway 22 Ocean Beaches signs."

LUNCH BUNCH, Harold WA0BRU

Getting acquainted with club members helps add interest to club projects and activities. Once each month, the OTVARC LUNCH BUNCH travels to one of Washington County's purveyors of fine foods. What a chance to get to know another member of the club is a social setting. In January, the LUNCH BUNCH will go to PANDA BUFFET, 11940 SW Pacific Highway (99W), near Hall, on Saturday, January 15th at 1:30 pm.

TRAVELERS

The first event of the new millennium will be held January 14-16 at a location to be announced. Betty, N7REX, has assumed the coordination role as "head Wagon Master" for the new year.

A schedule for the year was included in the December OSCILLATOR. If you missed yours, call (503-681-2345) or email (ecurry@teleport.com) the editor for a copy.

5th Wednesday Contest

The LAST event of the old millennium for OTVARC was the December 29th Fifth Wednesday Contest. Held on each fifth Wednesday throughout the year, the contest allows interaction with amateurs around the metropolitan area.

Using Simplex (147.54 MHz) the contest demonstrates capability between various Zip Codes. At least 12 stations were heard.

UK Internet Interconnect, by Ian G3ZHI

The Radio Communications Agency in the UK has announced that it will allow interconnection between Amateur Radio and the Internet starting in late January. The action followed consultation with the Radio Society of Great

Britain. David Hendon, the Agency's Chief Executive, made the announcement in response to requests from the Radio community to be permitted to link equipment through the Internet. The RA said it recognized the need to encourage young people to become involved.

BORSCH ELECTRONICS

Communications Servicing
9935 SW Johnson Street
Tigard OR 97223

Joe Borsch W7PNS

503-684-5201

11 Mar 2000

Mike & Key ARC - Puyallup, Washington
Michael Dinkelman, N7WA
22222 148th Avenue SE
Kent, WA 98042
253-631-3756, 425-867-4797
email: mwdink@eskimo.com

8 Apr 2000

Lilac City ARC
Warren Kelsey, KJ7BB
1405 South Crestline
Spokane, WA 99203
509-534-8443

22 Apr 2000

Eastern Idaho UHF Society

Hamfests And Conventions

<http://www.srv.net/~wa4vrv/hamfest.htm>

Jay Greenberg, WA4VRV,
2582 Granite Way
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
208-524-1388, 208-526-7033
wa4vrv@srv.net

TEACHER SURVEY YIELDS NEW INSIGHTS by Mary E. Lau, N7IAL

Teachers responding to an ARRL survey are upbeat about ham radio and say it still has youth appeal. Many also suggest that involvement with a local club is an important part of a young amateur's first steps.

In October, ARRL Field and Educational Services polled 30 specially selected active teachers and instructors about their Amateur Radio efforts

and experiences.

Questions included student ages, school or club group composition, numbers of successful licensees, and types of operating activities students liked best. The questionnaire specifically asked for details about what made an Amateur Radio program successful with students--the hits and misses.

The overwhelming majority

of those responding expressed optimism about the future of ham radio and its special attraction for young people. A few students also shared their experiences.

All teachers surveyed agreed that getting someone licensed was only the beginning. While they felt that it was their responsibility to prepare
(See INSIGHTS, page 7)

SEAPAC 2000 by Everett W6ABM

The Northwest Division Ham Convention, SEAPAC 2000, is set for Saturday and Sunday, June 3rd and 4th at Seaside. Held annually in the Seaside Convention Center, the event attracts amateur radio operators from the western states and beyond.

Among the special guests at

the Year 2000 event, Chris Im-lay, W3KD, is scheduled to attend. Chris is legal counsel to the American Radio Relay League and represents amateur radio interests in the halls of the Capitol.

Traditionally, the weekend is kicked off with a special

seminar on Friday, June 2nd. Watch this space for further data.

General information about SEAPAC 2000 can be obtained from Randy, KZ7T, 503-297-1175 or kz7t@arrl.org. See www.seapac.org.

LUSAT OSCAR-19

In anticipation of the 10th anniversary of the Microsat satellite launch on January 22, 2000, AMSAT-Argentina activated LUSAT OSCAR-19's CW telemetry beacon transmitter on December 21, 1999. PSK is now being transmitted by the satellite on 437.150 MHz, and CW is available on 437.125 MHz. The digipeater is currently active, and the PSK beacon is currently transmitting. The satellite is currently delivering over 1 watt of output power on both transmitters.

LO-19, a 7 inch square microsat satellite, orbits 780 km above the earth's surface. Solar cells and NiCad batteries aboard LO-19 are maintaining better than 60% efficiency.

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Ray Deeth
180 So. Main (#C)
Banks, Oregon 97106

LF BEACON ACTIVATED AT 136.745 kHz

A second experimental low frequency beacon is on the air. The WA2XTF/12 beacon on 136.745 kHz is a part of the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation's experiments to gain experience in anticipation that the FCC may allocate an amateur band at 136 kHz.

In October 1998, the ARRL petitioned the FCC to create two amateur LF allocations at

135.7-137.8 kHz and 160-190 kHz. Its petition is designated RM 9404.

The new beacon at the QTH of Ted Seely, AA4GM, near Front Royal, Virginia--one of 12 WA2XTF sites--features a 175 W transmitter feeding a 1600 foot horizontal antenna. It transmits a continuous CW message at 5 WPM.

AMRAD's first beacon

WA2XTF/6, on 136.75 kHz, was shut down temporarily to eliminate the potential for interference. The WA2XTF/12 beacon setup employs an "Earth bipole" style antenna that's grounded at both ends. The shorter leg consists of 100 feet of wire grounded to a 250 foot deep well casing. The longer leg is 1500 feet of wire stretched horizontally about

(See LF BEACON, page 8)

INSIGHTS (from Page 6)

students to get on the air, involvement with a local club was seen to be of equal importance since a club can offer support, guidance, and answers to questions.

The questionnaire--compiled and distributed by Field & Educational Services Correspondent Dan Miller,

K3UFG--specifically asked for details about what made an Amateur Radio program successful with students--the Hits and misses.

Miller said. "In our fast changing technology, the need for continuing education in the hobby has never been greater," he says. "Membership in a

club allows us to learn and develop our interests, while serving the community in which we live."

Those involved in an instructional program may contact Dan Miller at dmiller@arrrl.org.

Classified

For Sale. Uniden HR-2600

Mobile/Base 10 meter All Mode Transceiver. 25 watt SSB/CW; 10 watt AM/FM. Built-in SWR meter. Frequency select from mike. Like new in box with purchase receipt. \$120.

Greg KC7CGJ, 503-357-8560.

For Sale. 6.5' Equipment Rack

Open style. Black in good condition. On 3" ball bearing rollers. Never kept in damp environment.

This rack needs a new home. Delivery within 30 miles of Hillsboro. \$1

Everett W6ABM, 503-681-2345

Club Notes

Roger, KA7RNN, and Marvel, KA7TZT, want to express their sincere **appreciation** for the plaque presented at the OTVARC meeting of December 8th. The Noyes have been active in the club for many years and the recognition of the members means a great deal.

You and I are Amateur Radio, Editorial Commentary by Everett, W6ABM

Fifteen years ago the pages of the OTVARC OSCILLATOR contained discussion of the new expanded HF Phone Bands. The FCC basically adopted the ARRL's band plan, filed during the open comment period for RM 4228.

This expansion followed a similar activity by the FCC for 20 meters the previous year. It seems we are always waiting to see what the FCC will do with the rules defining our hobby.

The new millennium is no different. Today we wait to hear what will happen with the structure of our licensing. The journals and bands are filled with discussion of what is right for the future.

Whatever the FCC decides (and whenever), the result will only modify the existing patterns we live with as amateur radio operators. We make the hobby work with our varied interests,

experiments, public service, and pride in developing skills.

You and I are Amateur Radio! We set the patterns, tell the story, and make a difference. Be proud of our hobby. Tell our story to someone this month. Bring a prospective member to our meeting January 12th. Who do you know who could serve as an advocate for Amateur Radio in an influential environment?

PUBLIC AREA VE TESTING SITES by Ev W6ABM

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club (OTVARC)
Carl Clawson, WS7L, at 629-5796.
The next test session will be on Saturday, (TBA) at 1:00 pm, in the Tualatin Fire & Rescue Building, 20665 SW Blanton, Aloha.

Phantom Amateur Radio Club,
Second and Fourth Sunday of each month. John, KA0SSF, at 503-626-7399

McMinnville Amateur Radio Club
Monthly on Wednesday evenings Mike Jones, AB7OE, at 503-864-3291

Clark County Amateur Radio Club
Test location is the Salmon Creek American Legion, Vancouver, WA.
Test sessions begin at 10 am 360-896-8909 (press 3)

Portland Adventist Radio Club Patsy, W7PAT, at 503-668-4305



LF BEACON (from Page 7)

about 20 feet above the ground, "strung from one tree to another, like a telegraph wire," Andr' Kesteloot, N4ICK, says. The far end of the longer leg is connected to a rod inserted into a pond. He said two large coils were inserted in series with the longer wire--one at the transmitter end, the

other near the pond end--to bring the antenna into resonance at 136.750 kHz. Installation of the huge antenna this fall was one of the more challenging aspects of the project.

Kesteloot reports the beacon

was fired up on November 14. AMRAD is seeking additional reports. Reception reports may be sent via e-mail to Andr' Kesteloot, N4ICK, n4ick@amrad.org. Information concerning the LF experiments is available at <http://www.amrad.org>. The FCC has not yet acted on RM 9404.

Club Contact Directory

OTVARC Executive Board

President	J.D. Fort	K7JDF	503-259-0269
Vice President	Janet Bell	WB7FJC	503-648-4147
Secretary	Mike McDonald	KC7YSW	503-692-5893
Treasurer	Linda Sutton	KC7YTD	503-246-8879
Trustee	Jack Smithson	KA7HOJ	503-646-1873
Trustee	Will Sheffield	N7THL	503-642-7314
Trustee	Jim Blanchard	W7HOW	503-579-0248
Trustee	Alvin Carlson	KB7VHI	503-629-5728
Trustee	Julia Landers	KD7GQW	503-646-1546

Other Club Contacts

ARRL Coordinator	Bob Orr	WF7Q	503-472-2716
Bunny Hunting	OPEN		
Contesting	OPEN		
DX News	OPEN		
Equipment Loan	Stan Griffiths	W7NI	503-649-0837
Equipment Valuation	Randy Stimson	KZ7T	503-297-1175
Equipment Trustee	Al Berg	W7SIC	503-640-5456
Emergency Services	J.D. Fort	K7JDF	503-259-0269
Field Day Coordinator	Harold Landers	WA0BRU	503-646-1546
	Jack Smithson	KA7HOJ	503-646-1873
Health & Welfare	Linda Sutton	KC7YTD	503-246-8879
Historian	Al Berg	W7SIC	503-640-5456
Internet Home Page	Mike Boyd	N7DKQ	503-640-6041
Member Badges	Carl Clawson	WS7L	503-629-5796
Newsletter Editor	Everett Curry	W6ABM	503-681-2345
Newsletter Distribution	Al Berg	W7SIC	503-640-5456
Nominating Committee	OPEN		
Packet - Club BBS	Rick Braun	KB7OGD	503-645-1490
Project Night	Alan Chinnock	KB7POR	503-636-2237
	OPEN		

Public Relations	J.D. Fort	K7JDF	503-259-0269
Public Service	Randy Stimson	KZ7T	503-297-1175
Repeater	Wes Allen	K7WWG	503-649-3295
RFI & TVI	Dale Mosby	K7FW	503-640-0217
Satellites	OPEN		
Scholarship	Carl Clawson	WS7L	503-629-5796
Sea-Pac	Al Berg	W7SIC	503-640-5456
"	Brad Beach	N7NVC	503-657-1781
"	Jim Schaeffer	KB7ADH	503-245-2518
"	Randy Stimson	KZ7T	503-297-1175
"	Will Sheffield	N7THL	503-642-7314
Station Trustee	Hanford Van Ness	KE7BB	503-246-7975
Social	Harold Landers	WA0BRU	503-646-1546
Technical Specialist	Stan Griffiths	W7NI	503-649-0837
Tower Ordinances	Greg Milnes	W7OZ	503-648-6990
Trailer	Dee Lynch	K7JRB	541-745-1025
Training(code)	Burt Rooke(PCC)	N7OW	503-241-2891
Training(Novice/Tech)	Jim Mockley	AB7XD	503-629-9354
Training(upgrade)	OPEN		
Travelers	Betty Mickley	N7REX	503-642-1284
VE Test Coordinator	Carl Clawson	WS7L	503-629-5796
VHF/UHF	Arnold Jensen	N7YAG	503-543-3713

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Club Information

Purpose: The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, a Not-for-profit corporation, wants to be instrumental in helping the prospective and established Amateur to become a proficient communicator in the Amateur Radio Service.

Additionally, our intent is to promote the advancement of Amateur Radio Service, through the following five objectives:

1. Education & Training of new and licensed Amateurs.
2. Public Service during events & community activities.
3. Emergency communications in emergencies & disasters.
4. Hobby enhancement through meetings, nets & contests.
5. Social contact with other amateurs & interested persons.

Special Service Club: OTVARC is an ARRL Special Service Club. The ARRL grants us this distinction due to our participation in emergency preparedness exercises, public service events and other service-oriented programs. In addition, continuing educational and training programs are conducted for FCC licenses. OTVARC benefits when you join or renew your membership in the ARRL through the club. Contact the treasurer at any regular meeting.

Newsletter: The OTVARC Oscillator is the club newsletter. It is published monthly and mailed on the first of the month. Opinions, views, and recommendations of its contributors are not necessarily those of the club, its officers, advertisers or the editorial staff. Editor's E-mail: ecurry@teleport.com. February 2000 OSCILLATOR deadline is Tuesday, January 18th.

Internet Home Page: WWW.OTVARC.ORG

Correspondence: All correspondence may be sent to OTVARC, PO Box 5132, Aloha, OR 97006-0132.

Advertising: Classified ads are free to all paid up members. Display ads are available to approved commercial interests. To place an ad, mail your camera ready copy to the address above and indicate the size desired. Display ads run for six months at a time, from January through June and July through December. Ads are paid for in advance. Rates are:

Full page	8" X 10"	\$200 for six months
Half page	8" X 5"	\$120 for six months
Qtr page	4" X 5"	\$72 for six months
Bus. Card	2" X 3"	\$36 for six months

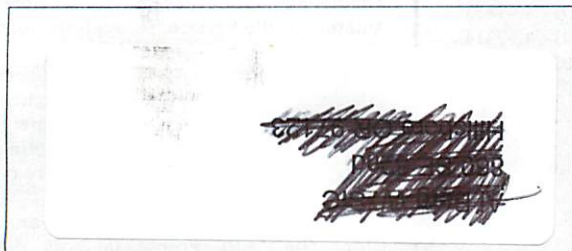
Meetings: We have two meetings per month. The Board meeting is on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Club business is conducted at this meeting. All members are welcome to attend. Contact the President for location and time. The general meeting is on the second Wednesday of each month at the Beaverton Elks Lodge. 3500 SW 104th Ave. (1 block north of Canyon Road). Meetings start at 7 PM. If you would like to come early, you can get a nice meal from the Elks for less than \$6.00.

Membership: OTVARC is open to anyone who is interested in amateur radio. You do not need to be a licensed radio amateur to join. Dues are: Full member, \$10/yr; Associate member (non-licensed), \$10/yr; Family members of full member, \$5/yr; Life memberships available - see the Treasurer. Only full members and life members may vote on club business and serve as club officers. All memberships expire on the last day of the calendar year. If you would like to join during the year, see the club treasurer for prorated dues schedule.

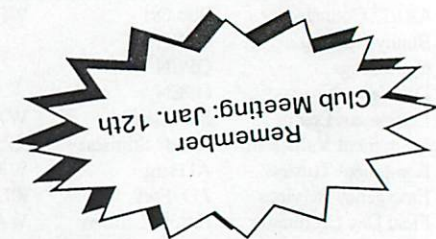
How to join: Mail the Membership application and/or renewal form with your dues to the Club address.



9712342763



Editor: W6ABM@amsat.org
Repeater: W7OTV (146.96MHz)
Web: WWW.OTVARC.ORG



Post Office Box 5132
Aloha OR 97006-0132

Oregon Tualatin Valley
Amateur Radio Club

OTVARC



Amateur Restructuring: Three License Classes, One Code Speed

Amateur Radio will get a new look in the new millennium. On December 30, 1999, the FCC issued its long-awaited Report and Order. The bottom line is that starting April 15, 2000, there will be three license classes--Technician, General, and Amateur Extra--and a single Morse code requirement--5 WPM. "We believe that an individual's ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," the FCC said.

Besides drastically streamlining the Amateur Radio licensing process, the FCC said its actions would "eliminate unnecessary requirements that may discourage or limit individuals from becoming trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts." Although no new Novice and Advanced licenses will be issued after the effective date of the Report and Order, the FCC does not plan to automatically upgrade any existing license privileges. This means that current licensees will retain their current operating privileges, including access to various modes and subbands, and will be able to renew their licenses indefinitely.

Starting April 15, 2000, individuals who qualified for the Technician class license prior to March 21, 1987, will be able to upgrade to General class by providing documentary proof to a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, paying an application fee, and completing FCC Form 605.

In addition to reducing the number of license classes from six to three and eliminating the 20 and 13 WPM code tests, the FCC also will reduce the number of written examination elements from five to three, authorize Advanced Class hams to prepare and administer General class examinations, and eliminate Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) station licenses. Under the new licensing scheme, there will be four examination elements. Element 1 will be the 5 WPM Morse code exam. Element 2 will be a 35-question written test to obtain a Technician license; Element 3 will be a 35-question written test to obtain a General license, and Element 4 will be a 50-question written test for the Amateur Extra license. A copy of the entire Report and Order (FCC 99-412) is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf> or at http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/1999/db991230/fcc99412.txt